

cleaning everything from beaches to birds.

Additional good news came with a phone call from President Clinton to Governor Almond, assuring him that funds would be made available for the cleanup and fishing industries.

Mr. President, I raised a number of questions at the time and observed how unfortunate it was that the barge was not of the new double hulled design, which I have long advocated.

I understand that the barge leaked from 9 of its 14 containment holds. A double-hull might have made all the difference between an incident and a disaster.

At the time, I also observed that everyone would benefit from a thorough review of the coordination of our emergency response to oilspills.

The bill we are introducing today is a result of such an inquiry, conducted by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee under Senator CHAFEE's excellent leadership.

Our bill offers insurance incentives for oil barge owners who expedite conversion of their barges to double-hulled vessels. It also sets a deadline for the U.S. Coast Guard to issue new standards for oil barge design and operation.

The bill requires oil barges to have crews and workable anchors or a retrieval mechanism. It gives oilspill victims and scientists easier access to the oilspill liability trust fund and sets standards for the closing and reopening of fishing grounds after a spill.

Although it is not a panacea and will not prevent future oilspills, our bill goes a long way toward improving the safety of oil barges and setting a clear course for the response when a spill does occur. As we all know, those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it. This bill codifies what we have learned and lessens the chance that the tragedy that struck us in January will be repeated.

By Mr. CRAIG (for himself, Mr. BENNETT and Mr. BRYAN):

S. 1731. A bill to reauthorize and amend the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

THE NATIONAL GEOLOGIC MAPPING
REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1996

• Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, my purpose here today is to introduce on behalf of myself and my cosponsors Senators BRYAN and BENNETT, a bill to reauthorize the highly successful National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992. The act established a cooperative geologic mapping program among the U.S. Geological Survey, State geological surveys, and geological programs at institutions of higher education in the United States. The goal of this program is to accelerate and improve the efficiency of detailed geologic mapping of critical areas in the Nation by coordinating and using the combined talents of the three participating groups.

Detailed geologic mapping is an indispensable source of information for a

broad range of societal activities and benefits, including the delineation and protection of sources of safe drinking water; assessments of coal, petroleum, natural gas, construction materials, metals, and other natural resources; understanding the physical and biological interactions that define ecosystems, and that control, and are a measure of, environmental health; identification and mitigation of natural hazards such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides, subsidence, and other ground failures; and many other resource and land-use planning requirements.

Only about 20 percent of the Nation is mapped at a scale adequate to meet these critical needs. Additional high-priority areas for detailed geologic mapping have been identified at State level by State-map advisory committees, and include Federal, State, and local needs and priorities.

Funding for the program is incorporated in the budget of the U.S. Geological Survey. State geological surveys and university participants receive funding from the program through a competitive proposal process that requires 1:1 matching funds from the applicant.

Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to join me to ensure the continued efficient collection and availability of this fundamental Earth-science information. •

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1183

At the request of Mr. HATFIELD, the name of the Senator from West Virginia [Mr. ROCKEFELLER] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1183, a bill to amend the Act of March 3, 1931 (known as the Davis-Bacon Act), to revise the standards for coverage under the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1233

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the names of the Senator from Oregon [Mr. HATFIELD] and the Senator from West Virginia [Mr. ROCKEFELLER] were added as cosponsors of S. 1233, a bill to assure equitable coverage and treatment of emergency services under health plans.

S. 1271

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from Arizona [Mr. MCCAIN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1271, a bill to amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982.

S. 1592

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Oregon [Mr. WYDEN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1592, a bill to strike the prohibition on the transmission of abortion-related matters, and for other purposes.

S. 1612

At the request of Mr. HELMS, the name of the Senator from Missouri [Mr. ASHCROFT] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1612, a bill to provide for increased mandatory minimum sentences

for criminals possessing firearms, and for other purposes.

S. 1639

At the request of Mr. DOLE, the names of the Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID], and the Senator from Idaho [Mr. CRAIG] were added as cosponsors of S. 1639, a bill to require the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a demonstration project to provide the Department of Defense with reimbursement from the medicare program for health care services provided to medicare-eligible beneficiaries under TRICARE.

S. 1646

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Wyoming [Mr. THOMAS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1646, a bill to authorize and facilitate a program to enhance safety, training, research and development, and safety education in the propane gas industry for the benefit of propane consumers and the public, and for other purposes.

S. 1650

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Washington [Mrs. MURRAY] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1650, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to prohibit discrimination in the payment of wages on account of sex, race, or national origin, and for other purposes.

S. 1661

At the request of Mr. PRESSLER, the names of the Senator from Iowa [Mr. GRASSLEY] and the Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] were added as cosponsors of S. 1661, a bill to specify that States may waive certain requirements relating to commercial motor vehicle operators under chapter 313 of title 49, United States Code, with respect to the operators of certain farm vehicles, and for other purposes.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 49

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Joint Resolution 49, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to require two-thirds majorities for bills increasing taxes.

SENATE RESOLUTION 85

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from New York [Mr. D'AMATO] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 85, a resolution to express the sense of the Senate that obstetrician-gynecologists should be included in Federal laws relating to the provision of health care.

NOTICE OF HEARING

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND
INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee

of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee on the management and costs of class action lawsuits at Department of Energy facilities.

The hearing will take place on Tuesday, May 14 at 9:30 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, in Washington, DC.

Those wishing to testify or submit written statements should write to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510. For further information, please call Kelly Johnson or Jo Meuse at (202) 224-6730.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be allowed to meet during the Tuesday, May 7, 1996, session of the Senate for the purpose of conducting a hearing on the Coast Guard budget for fiscal year 1997.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be allowed to meet during the Tuesday, May 7, 1996 session of the Senate for the purpose of conducting an oversight hearing on the Federal Trade Commission.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 7, 1996, at 10 a.m. to hold a hearing on S. 1284, NII Copyright Protection Act of 1995.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Labor and Human Resources be authorized to meet for a hearing on NIH reauthorization, during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 7, 1996, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Joint Committee on the Library be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 7, 1996, beginning at 10 a.m. until business is completed, to receive a report by the General Accounting Office on the Library of Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE WHITewater DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee to Investigate Whitewater

Development Corporation and Related Matters be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 7, Wednesday, May 8, and Thursday, May 9, 1996, to conduct hearings pursuant to Senate Resolution 120.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FORESTS AND PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Forests and Public Land Management of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 7, 1996, for purposes of conducting a subcommittee hearing which is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. The purpose of this hearing is to consider S. 1662, the Omnibus Oregon Resources Conservation Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure be granted permission to conduct a hearing Tuesday, May 7, 9:30 a.m., hearing room SD-406, on the GSA Public Buildings Service program request for fiscal year 1997 and on disposal of GSA-held property in Springfield, VA.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TAX LIMITATION AMENDMENT

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, today is tax freedom day, the day that average Americans can expect to quit working for the Government and begin working for themselves and their families.

Mr. President, it has taken the average American 128 days this year—the 128 days leading up to tax freedom day—to earn enough to pay the tax collectors at the Federal, State, and local levels. Had the average worker devoted every dollar earned every day for the last 128 days, not to food, clothing, or shelter, but exclusively to paying off his tax obligations, it would be only now that his tax bill would have been satisfied and he could begin working for himself.

May 7 is the latest tax freedom day ever—6 days later than it was when President Clinton took office in 1993. In other words, it will take the American people an extra 6 days—nearly a week—to pay for all of the additional taxes that have been imposed during President Clinton's time in office.

Mr. President, it is no wonder that Americans are anxious about their economic security. The harder they work, the more the Government takes. Compared to the 3 percent of income paid in taxes in 1948, the average family now pays nearly 25 percent of its income in taxes to the Federal Government. Add State and local taxes to the mix, and the burden approaches 40 percent.

That is why Congress passed the tax relief bill last year—to begin to roll back the huge tax increase that President Clinton imposed in 1993. We want to see that the American people can earn more, keep more, and do more with their families, their churches and synagogues, and their community.

President Clinton says he wants to help the middle class, too. Why, then, did he veto last year's tax relief bill? Seventy percent of the tax reductions would have gone to those with incomes under \$75,000. Looking at the tax relief bill in detail, it included a new deduction for interest on student loans, a \$500-per-child tax credit, a tax credit for adoption expenses, and marriage penalty relief. Those four components alone made up 64 percent of the tax relief provided by the legislation. In fact, the Heritage Foundation had estimated that 47,552 low-income taxpayers in Arizona—3.5 million nationwide—would see their entire income tax liability eliminated as a result of the \$500-per-child tax credit alone. But President Clinton said no to tax relief.

In fact, the President is still trying to justify his 1993 tax increase as a tax on the wealthy. Tell that to the millions of Americans who are struggling to cope with the soaring price of gasoline made worse by the Clinton gas tax increase. I am sure they would be surprised to learn that they are among the wealthy the President talks about so cavalierly. They are the ones paying the higher gas tax.

Young couples working two jobs and earning a combined total of only \$30,000 would be surprised to learn that they are among the wealthy that President Clinton talks about. With two children, they would have saved \$1,000 on their taxes if the \$500-per-child tax credit became law. President Clinton vetoed that relief.

I am sure the older American who has an income just over \$30,000 a year would be surprised to learn that he is one of the wealthy the President is so fond of taxing. He was hit with the Clinton Social Security tax increase in 1993.

According to the Tax Foundation, total Federal taxes on a median-income family—not the rich, but an average family—increased by more than \$2,000 during the Clinton years. Just about everyone across the country has felt the ill effects of President Clinton's economic policies.

When the President talks about taxes, it is always in terms of what it means to the Government—can the Government afford tax relief for the middle class? How much more can it squeeze out of working Americans? Well, I think we have to begin to consider how taxes affect working people's budgets. After all, it is Government that is supposed to serve people, not the other way around. A government that confiscates nearly half of its citizens' hard-earned income has, in my